

The Stewardship Centre for British Columbia

Annual Report 2015-2016



Our Mission

Our mission is to strengthen ecological stewardship in BC by providing educational, technical and capacity programs and resources to organizations, governments, the private sector and the general public through collaborative partnerships.



Red-listed Western Bluebird from the Georgia Depression population.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. “

—Margaret Mead



STEWARDSHIP CENTRE
FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Message from The Centre

2015-2016 has been another great year of strengthening our partnerships and collaborations and generating significant outcomes in all of our program areas. We have seen an increase in tangible outputs from projects (guides, training, report recommendations), and enhanced capacity and competency at both the governance level (our board) and operational level (advisory committees/groups). SCBC accomplished important milestones in our work to enhance the resilience and function of shorelines through our Green Shores program. We saw the first shoreline parks projects and residential properties participate as Green Shores™ demonstration sites. A testament to the importance of this work were the “sold out” Green Shores training workshops held this year. SCBC also achieved important progress with two key projects addressing major threats to wildlife and species at risk. We worked with agricultural producers, showcasing stewardship practices for riparian areas and watercourses. We also worked to develop policy and by-law options for local government and launched an outreach campaign that raised awareness of recommended practices to reduce the impacts of free-roaming cats.

A primary principle underlying all our work is to build the capacity of the individuals, communities and organizations we work with. Our online Capacity Building Tool has continued to drive progress in this area. Moreover, SCBC’s own capacity has been enhanced this past year: we realized a 60% increase in participation on our Board of Directors/Advisory Committees. Furthermore, this growth has strengthened representation from a broad spectrum of organizations involved in stewardship. The Stewardship Centre remains grateful to individuals and our partners for their active participation in our work.

2016 also marks the 10th anniversary of the Stewardship Centre for BC. We’ve accomplished much during the last 10 years: over twenty-one projects in three program areas; seven new guides for stewardship of sensitive habitats, 17 reports; 16 case studies of on-the-ground stewardship practices; and two on-line tools. On behalf of the Stewardship Centre, thank you to all our partners and supporters for working together with us over the past 10 years. We look forward with great enthusiasm to continue to support stewardship in BC for the next 10 years.



Sean Sharpe, RPBio,
Co-Chair

Peter Abrams, B.A.,
M.ER,
Co-Chair

DG Blair, B.Sc. M.Sc.,
Executive Director



SCBC Achievements 2015-2016



9

Reports and educational materials developed

60%

Increase in members on SCBC Board of Directors and Advisory Groups



6

Active Projects

for enhancing the resilience and function of shorelines, protecting species at risk, and fostering stewardship

57

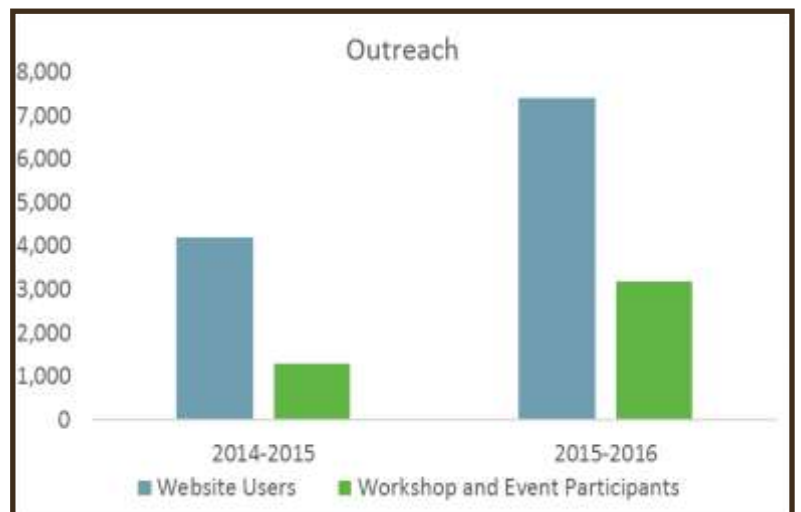
Professional, government, and stewardship partner organizations represented on our Board and Advisory Committees

77%

Increase in website users

146%

Increase in workshop and event participants



GREEN SHORES Snapshot 2015-2016: Green Shores™

Green Shores provides science-based tools, workshops, and educational resources to landowners and managers to encourage the restoration and sustainable use of shoreline ecosystems. In 2015-2016 SCBC had four projects within the Green Shores program: Green Shores for BC Pilot Project, Green Shores Education and Training Project, Green Shores for Homes Washington and BC Project, and Green Shores for Coastal Development.

Green Shores Project Impacts

- 145 participants in the Green Shores for Homes community engagement workshops in pilot communities
- >2,000 participants at community events and presentations
- >100 participants at Green Shores workshops
- 39 professionals registered with SCBC as completed Green Shores training
- 1+ Official Community Plan that now includes Green Shores for Homes as policy
- 3+ local governments using Green Shores into RFPs for shoreline projects
- 1 Local Government Working Group established to share ideas, resources and strategies to limit “re-inventing the wheel” which will help fast track Green Shores for Homes implementation in communities across BC
- 2 projects enrolled for certification for Green Shores for Homes and 2 as Green Shores for Coastal Development demonstration projects



West Vancouver Sea Walk

GREEN SHORES Snapshot 2015-2016: Green Shores™



Green Shores for Homes BC Pilot Project engaged four pilot communities to identify key barriers and solutions for homeowners to adopt shore-friendly practices along marine and lakeshore properties and to determine strategies for successfully implementing the Green Shores for Homes (GSH) program province-wide. Completed in March 2016, key outputs include an overview of the findings from GSH workshops, an analysis of primary actors, challenges and opportunities related to shoreline alterations, strategies and opportunities for local governments as well as key recommendations (Action Plan) for successfully implementing the GSH program across BC. Four key recommendations for the Action Plan emerged:

1. Develop an educational and promotional initiative
2. Develop a professional certification program
3. Streamline approvals
4. Develop carefully targeted initiatives.

Work continues with the local government groups and within the pilot communities to continue promoting Green Shores and making the program more accessible across the province.

http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/Green_shores/green-shores-for-homes/

GREEN SHORES Snapshot 2015-2016:

Green Shores™



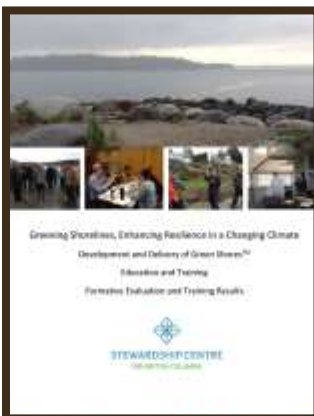
What People Are Saying About Green Shores:

“Applicable to current construction practices as well as future problems due to sea level rise.”

“I have applicants at work who sometimes build hard shorelines but now I can inform them of the alternative!”

“Excellent professional development opportunity. Potential work opportunities.”

—GSH Training Attendees



Green Shores Education and Training Project. Together with British Columbia Institute of Technology, University of Victoria, local governments, and other partners, the SCBC's Green Shores Training Pilot Project was completed this past year. Two levels of training were developed by a team of experts: Introduction to Green Shores (Level I) and Advanced Green Shores (Level II). Over 80 people attended training sessions held in early 2016. All sessions were “sold out” clearly indicating the need for training to create more resilient shorelines through the use of Green Shores credits and ratings systems. Feedback from the training participants and the 31 members of the Advisory Committees was gathered in a formative evaluation for the project. Key

recommendations from the Green Shores Training Evaluation report include:

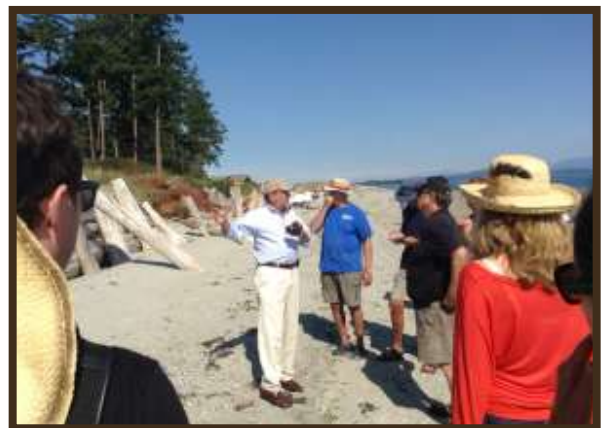
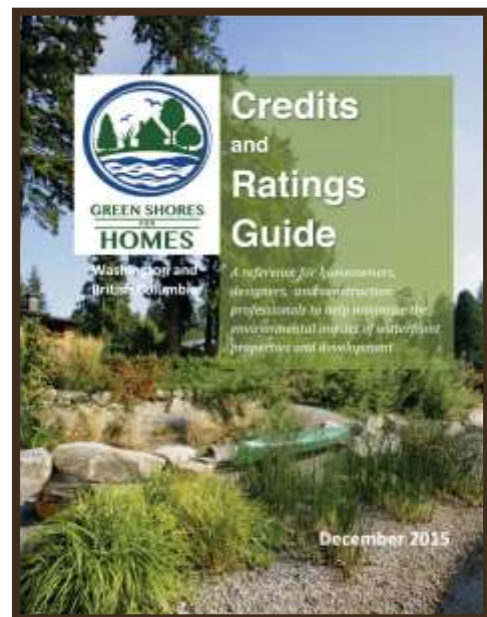
1. Continue offering training through academic institutions
2. Adapt courses based on the target audience
3. Seek further funding to make the courses more affordable
4. Confirm and develop Memorandums of Understanding to enable further training sessions
5. Implement a Communications and Knowledge Mobilization Plan to promote future training sessions.

Plans are underway for future training sessions beginning in the Fall of 2016.

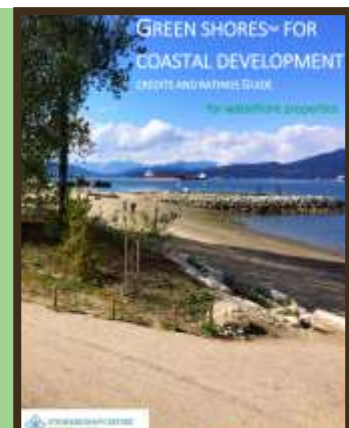


Green Shores for Homes Washington/BC Project. SCBC worked together with our US partners (The City of Seattle, Washington Sea Grant and San Juan County) and BC partner (Islands Trust) on the Green Shores for Homes project funded by a grant

from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Completed in December 2015, the project served communities in both the United States and Canada by researching, developing and testing a new GSH Credits and Ratings system and guide, program development as well as pilot GSH verifier training. The new Green Shores for Homes Credit and Ratings Guide for Waterfront Properties (December 2015) was created as a reference for homeowners, designers, and construction professionals. This guide is a step-by-step reference for using the GSH rating system. Readers can find detailed information on obtaining points from the 22 credits available in the four categories: Shoreline Physical Processes, Shoreline Habitat, Water Quality, and Shoreline Stewardship. Conditions for obtaining one of the two Green Shores for Homes ratings, Chinook and Orca, are also discussed in detail.



Green Shores for Coastal Development (GSCD) applies to residential and commercial marine waterfront development projects as well as to infrastructure development (such as public walkways) and shore protection works in public spaces in parks and recreational areas. Progress with the GSCD project included an update to the GSCD Credits and Ratings guide, increased interest in GSCD in shoreline park applications and the first shoreline projects enrolled as GSCD demonstration sites in Kitimat and the City of Vancouver.



GREEN SHORES Educating about Greener Shorelines

Green Shores Websites Updated!

SCBC worked together with the City of Seattle and other partners to develop new Green Shores websites. The greenshoresforhomes.org website is the place to go for learning about Green Shores for Homes. Users from both Washington State and BC can gather information about how the program works using the numerous online resources, and then use the online enrolment form to have a Green Shores for Homes verifier help walk them through the process of completing a Green Shores project. Additionally, we have updated the greenshores.ca with a new layout that makes it easier to find reports, learn about each of the four program areas (Green Shores for Homes, Green Shores for Coastal Development, Green Shore for Youth and Green Shores for Local Government) and to locate resources for BC residents.



New Poster for Green Shores for Homes

New video for Green Shores for Homes

“The Story of Erin and Mel” video was added to both Green Shores websites as an engaging introduction to the GSH program. This four-minute video is a quick walkthrough of the Green Shores for Homes process with the video showing how new homeowners, Erin and Mel, transform their eroding shoreline into one that is more naturally adaptive to changing climate conditions while providing a cost effective and attractive solution with help from the GSH program.



Green Shores Workshops and Events

Green Shores workshops and events were held across BC in 2015-2016, including Savary Island, Prince Rupert, West Vancouver, Lantzville, Maple Ridge, Powell River, Victoria, Vancouver, Bowen Island, BC as well as Calgary, Alberta. The SCBC hosted a table at the Environmental Science Students’ Association’s Career Fair at UBC as well as Handsworth Secondary School’s Environmental Science Fair in North Vancouver. DG Blair and Assistant Coordinator Sarah Wong brought the popular “Make A Green Shore” activity when they returned to the Vancouver Maritime Museum to participate in the Georgia Strait Alliance’s annual Water’s Edge Day. Over 2,000 participants had the chance to learn about Green Shores and environmental stewardship this year.

SCBC provides a number of resources and guides for Stewardship Practices for wildlife and species at risk. These present information, options, and examples of good stewardship practices that address major threats to species impacted.

Wildlife and Species at Risk Project Impacts

- 6 new Stewardship Champions case studies added to the SP Gallery of agricultural producers in the Kootenays and Fraser Valley
- 2 new publications for local governments to address issues related to cat predation by free roaming and feral cats
- 2 outreach and informational documents developed for pet owners including the Happy Cat pamphlet and a stewardship practices guide to limit the impacts of free-roaming cats on wildlife and species at risk
- >1,700 participants at community events and presentations learning about protecting wildlife and species at risk
- >2,000 Happy Cat pamphlets distributed to local governments, conservation organizations, veterinarians, and cat care groups



*Endangered and yellow-listed
Sockeye Salmon.*



*Red-listed and extirpated Western
Meadowlark from the Georgia
Depression population.*

Stewardship Practices Demonstration Project (2015-2018). Farmers and rural landowners play a crucial role in the management and protection of biodiversity in aquatic and riparian ecosystems. This project highlights agricultural producers, “Stewardship Champions”, who have adopted voluntary stewardship practices for riparian areas and watercourses – practices that protect and restores habitat for multiple species. This project targets species at risk like the Oregon Spotted Frog, Pacific Water Shrew, Salish Sucker and the Oregon Forest snail which occur primarily on private agricultural lands in the Fraser Valley as well a vulnerable species in the South Okanagan.

Educating About Species at Risk

Stewardship Practices (SP) Gallery updated!

The SP Gallery and its associated work have four primary aims. It attempts to: (i) foster partnerships between agricultural producers, ENGOS, and local government who have a long-term stake in stewarding the local land base; (ii) develop community stewardship champions; (iii) address science gaps related to the effectiveness of the different riparian area and agricultural waterways stewardship practices; and (iv) encourage people to take voluntary stewardship actions to safeguard the natural areas of species at risk need to live. Working together with the Biodiversity Research Integrated Training and Education (BRITE) program and SCBC, UBC graduate student Mollie Chapman interviewed and documented ‘Stewardship Practices’ for six different private landowners and developed website profiles for each, including an engaging narrative, photos of the participant and projects, and detailed documentation of the practices implemented and outcomes of the work. SCBC added these case studies to the gallery of ‘Stewardship Champions’—agricultural landowners who have implemented practices such as riparian buffers, erosion management, invasive species removal, and proper storage of manure. They serve to demonstrate practical and actionable practice to protect multiple species at risk on agricultural lands. Further case studies will be developed in 2016.



The work, people involved, and results of projects in the Stewardship Practices program.

Stewardship Practices to Reduce Cat Predation Project (2015/2016) addresses the threat that outdoor cats kill more than 100 million birds per year by encouraging veterinarians, humane societies, cat care groups, and cat-owners to adopt a “cats indoors” policy to benefit wildlife populations and improve cat welfare. Research and development of a policy paper for local governments with sample bylaws as well as outreach material was completed that raises awareness of recommended practices and policies to reduce the impacts of free-roaming cats on wildlife and species at risk (see also Project Spotlight).



Stewardship Works!



Celebrating Stewardship! Creating Stewardship Legacies! Project will be launched in mid-2016. The project marks Canada’s upcoming 150th anniversary of confederation in 2017. Our goal is to celebrate land and water stewardship through the sharing of stories of past and present stewards; work together to identify key local areas of cultural and environmental value; and encourage individuals to create stewardship legacies for future generations.

Capacity Building Tool. Stewardship organizations are the heart, hands and legs of conservation and stewardship across British Columbia. Building organizational capacity is recognized as a key ingredient for organizations and community groups to realize their full potential. We recognize the need to support and strengthen the varied and passionate work of the BC stewardship community through the Capacity Benchmarking Tool available on our website:

<http://www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca/Capacity/>

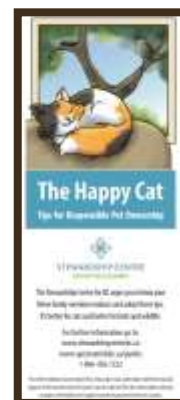


Stewardship Practices to Reduce Cat Predation Project

A lack of awareness of the impact of cat predation on wild birds is reflected in current animal control bylaws and lack of cat management by pet owners. Cats are estimated to kill between 100 and 350 million birds per year in Canada (Blancher P. 2013, CWS 2012). This project benefited a broad range of common bird species that either feed or nest close to the ground or are attracted to bird feeders. The project developed education and outreach materials and researched policies and bylaws for stakeholders who influence and control the management and welfare of cats. Educating this audience is key to addressing the problem. Through the adoption of stewardship practices, new policies, and regulatory bylaws developed as part of the project, British Columbians can become more actively involved in conserving and protecting vulnerable bird species in their backyards and communities. All materials were published a new Cats and Birds project page on the SCBC website.

REDUCING THE IMPACT OF CATS ON BIRDS AND WILDLIFE: A BRIEFING NOTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

This report provides local government decision-makers with a summary of the issues related to cat predation of vulnerable bird and wildlife species and provides some recommended actions to consider.



THE HAPPY CAT pamphlet and the **STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES GUIDE TO REDUCING THE IMPACTS OF CATS ON BIRDS AND WILDLIFE** provide tips and best practices for responsible pet ownership. Being a good guardian doesn't just mean keeping a cat fed and healthy, it's also important to keep pets safe and to limit its impact on wildlife and birds.

REDUCING THE IMPACT OF CATS ON BIRDS AND WILDLIFE: RECOMMENDED POLICIES AND BYLAWS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

This report suggests bylaws and policies that can be adopted by local and regional governments to address the serious impact of free-roaming and feral cats on birds and other small wildlife. The recommendations and background information presented have birds and other native wildlife as the top priority and are also compatible with animal welfare objectives of improving cat welfare and mitigating cat overpopulation. Included are recommendations on cats roaming at large, sterilization, spay/ neuter funds, identification, licensing, feral cat colonies, humane trapping, and public education programs.

SCBC 2015-2016 Team

Board of Directors

Sean Sharpe

Co-chair, *One Sky*

Peter Abrams

Co-chair, *Peter Abrams Consulting*

Gretchen Harlow

Secretary Treasurer

Liana Ayach

City of Surrey

Ken Brock

Environment Canada

Joanne Day

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Margo Hearne

Delkatla Marine Sanctuary Society

Annemarie Koch

North Vancouver Island Salmonid Association

Valentin Schaefer

University of Victoria

Centre Staff

DG Blair

Executive Director

Lonnie Prouse

Financial Manager

Laurie Stott

Website Coordinator, Evolve Multimedia

Maruska Giacchetto

Assistant Coordinator (2015)

Robert Jacobson

Assistant Coordinator (2016)



Board of Directors Profile: Ten Years of SCBC!

Stewardship means different things to different sectors. It was important to involve stewardship practitioners via a new, more broadly-based NGO (aka the SCBC). Congratulations all of you who have helped make the dream a reality... and the very best wishes for every success in the years ahead! Keep up the good work.

—Rod Silver, Retired Manager, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund

A hearty 'Congratulations' to the Stewardship Centre for British Columbia on its 10th anniversary. SCBC is a unique organization in Canada. Its merits are multifold. Today, the Stewardship Centre for BC is more needed than ever. We are grateful for the wonderful work that has been done by this organization over the past decade. Here's wishing SCBC another fruitful ten years.

—Natasha van Bentum, Give Green Canada

Special thanks is due to the following retiring SCBC Board of Directors members – we could not have made the dream happen without you!



Peter Abrams has been on the SCBC Board since 2007 and Co-Chair since 2012. He has brought the industry and small business perspective to the Board. We have truly appreciated Peter's skill to run an excellent meeting and his input to projects such as Green Shores, Transboundary and Oceans Stewardship, and the Stewardship Works! projects. Joanne Day has stepped up to fill Peter's role on the Board as Co-Chair. Thank you Peter and welcome Joanne!



Gretchen Harlow has been on the Board since 2006 and Secretary-Treasurer since 2014. Trained as a community journalist, Gretchen assisted in the development of the Stewardship Centre as a member of the Stewardship Technical Committee. She retired from Environment Canada in 2013 and we can't say enough about Gretchen's contribution to SCBC on multiple fronts from proposal writing to finances to her amazing "big picture" thinking! New Board member, Tracy Bond, will replace Gretchen as Secretary-Treasurer. Gretchen will remain active with SCBC on our Conservation and Stewardship Practices and Website Committees. A huge shout-out to Gretchen!



Margo Hearne, Past Chair (2009 – 2010) and member at large since 2006. Irish-born Margo Hearne settled in Masset, Haida Gwaii, and spent 17 years on the troller/gillnetter Lady Julia – giving her the opportunity to be a keen observer of wildlife and the natural world. Margo has contributed much to the SCBC Board through her deep understanding of stewardship and her skills at Board and organizational development. Much thanks to Margo for all her hard work!



Annemarie Koch. Annemarie is a long-time resident of northern Vancouver Island. Her interests in stewardship stem from a life in the forest and next to the sea, and being the daughter of a weatherman and a gardener. Annemarie has the distinction of being the founding SCBC Board Chair in 2006 AND one of the five early members of SCBC! Thanks to Annemarie for her insights into stewardship ethics and the ways to make it happen through our organizational mission in today's sometimes challenging environment. She will continue with SCBC on our Conservation and Stewardship Practices Committee. Much, much thanks to Annemarie!

Our Donors & Supporters

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their in-kind support of SCBC through participation on our Board of Directors, Committees and Project Advisory Committees:

A Rocha Canada
Alert Bay Marine Research Society
Archipelago Marine Research Inc.
Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC
BC Lake Stewardship Society
BC Ministry of Agriculture
BC Ministry of Environment
BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources
BC Nature Kids
BC SPCA
Bird Studies Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Capital Regional District
City of Surrey
City of Vernon
College of Applied Biology
Community Mapping Network
Cowichan Valley Regional District
Delkatla Marine Sanctuary Society
District of Maple Ridge
District of West Vancouver
Ecological Services Initiative
Ecosystems and Species at Risk Local Government Working Group
Environment Canada
Environmental Farm Plan
Evolve Multimedia
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Fraser Valley Conservancy
Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition
Georgia Strait Alliance
Golder Associates

Greater Nachako Animal Welfare Society
Holger Farm
Islands Trust
LADR Landscape Architects
Lanarc Consulting
Lees & Associates
Modus Consulting
Nanaimo SPCA
Natural Resources Canada
Nature Canada
North Vancouver Island Salmonid Association
Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Alliance
One Sky
Pacific Streamkeepers Federation
Pearson Ecological
Peter Abrams Consulting
Planners' Institute of BC
Powell River Regional District
Rueggeberg & Associates
Sean Sharpe Environmental Consulting
Sherril Guthrie
SNC-Lavalin Inc.
South Coast Conservation Program
South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program
Stanley Park Ecological Society
Town of Qualicum Beach
University of British Columbia
University of Prince Edward Island
University of Victoria
Washington Sea Grant
West Coast Environmental Law

Thank you to the following organizations for their financial support to SCBC:

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

 Canada

 Canada



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada



sitka foundation



Islands Trust



C.V.R.D.

west vancouver



POWELL RIVER
REGIONAL DISTRICT

real estate
foundation
BRITISH COLUMBIA



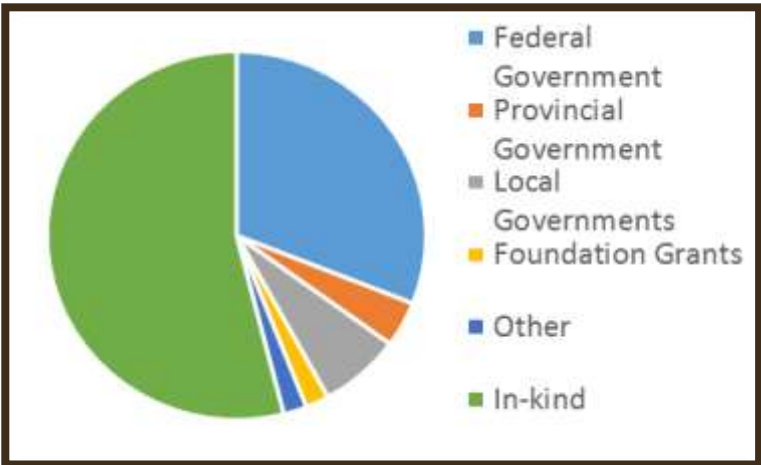
www.StewardshipCentreBC.ca

Financial Summary

Revenue

- Federal Government—31%
- Provincial Government—4%
- Local Governments—7%
- Foundation Grants—2%
- Other—2%
- In-kind Support—54%

2015-2016 Revenue Total: \$366,795.00



Expenses

Conservation and Stewardship Project Services—56%

Results:

- 6 New Species at Risk Stewardship Champion case studies from the Kootenays and Fraser Valley
- 4 Projects enrolled for Green Shores certification (2 Green Shores for Homes and 2 Green Shores for Coastal Development)
- 39 Professionals completed Green Shores Training

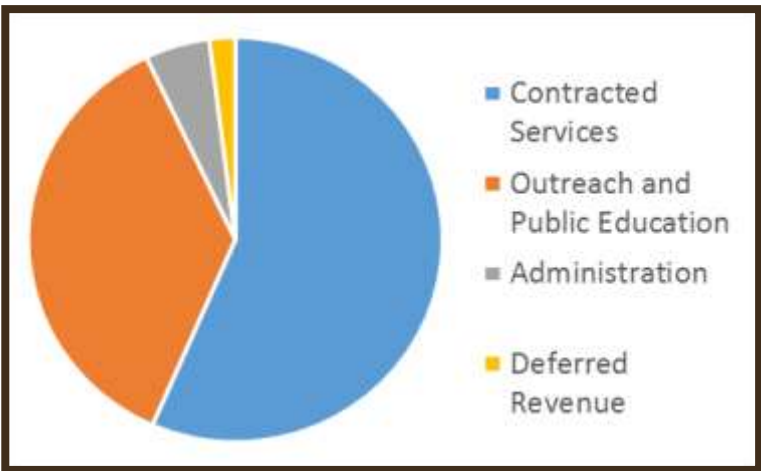
Outreach and Public Education—37%

Results:

- 11 Green Shores workshops and events
- 5 Species at Risk workshops and presentations
- Over 3200 participants attended our workshops and events

Administration and Overhead:

- Administration-5%
- Deferred Revenue— 2%



2015-2016 Expenses Total: \$362,329.00



Looking Forward:

2016-2017 Outlook

With our partners support, we work tirelessly to find innovative ways to accomplish our goals. In the coming months, the Stewardship Centre will be working on priority activities such as our new Green Shores Local Government Working Group, developing and delivering new Green Shores training, and working with the agricultural community, conservation organizations, pet owners and humane societies, and local governments to protect species at risk. Moving into 2017, we will be celebrating the contributions of the stewardship community as part of Canada's 150th birthday.

We are fortunate that our donors and supporters have provided us with amazing support both financially and with the needed technical expertise to move our initiatives ahead. Our sincerest thanks are extended to the individual volunteers and organizations whose dedication to our mandate has made the work of the Stewardship Centre possible. We look forward to a productive and active year ahead!



*Endangered and red-listed
Streambank Lupine.*



*Endangered and red-listed Bog
Bird's-foot Trefoil.*

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